

RPTC Ramblings

Meet 15 year old Miki Ouliais.

Miki Ouliais (younger brother of Selam) is a talented and up and coming tennis player as well as a very talented soccer player. Miki has recently had the fantastic offer of a week's training at the Celtic Soccer Academy in Glasgow, Scotland. He did a holiday program with the Celtic Soccer Club coaches in Melton last school holidays where he was spotted by talent scouts. He is being sponsored by the Reagan Milstein Foundation, which is in partnership with the Celtic Football Club to attend the clinic in Glasgow.

Miki who is coached by Matt Gregory plays Saturday morning Junior competition for RPTC in B Reserve 2 Mixed. He also recently was the winner in the singles and runner up in doubles at the Royal Park Junior Classic in his age division.

I myself grew up on a tennis court (thanks to tennis loving parents) and later went on to excel in other sports. Soccer being one of them. Which makes me think that tennis is a great all round athletic skill development sport. Tennis is a great foundation sport and possesses many skills which can be transferred into other sports.

Tennis and soccer have much in common with the skills required but none more so than footwork and endurance. Footwork is the key to great tennis and many of today's top tennis players also play soccer. A lot of it. You can see it in their footwork, which is light and smooth. Both sports involve predicting where a ball will be and accelerating to meet it on time.

Federer, Nadal and Murry all turned down potential careers in football to focus on tennis. Nadal can often be seen warming up playing soccer/ tennis. Soccer ball drills will improve the lightness and speed of your feet, and shortly your tennis game will follow or vice versa training in tennis can help to create much better soccer players. Endurance, footwork and reading ball flight, spin and knowledge of how and where to strike a ball to impart a desired effect are all overlapping skills.

Royal Park Tennis Club is proud to have such fine young athletes as part of our club. We congratulate and wish Miki good luck with his upcoming trip to the hallowed grounds of Celtic Football Club in the July school holidays.

Janice Lacy
Member Services Manager
RPTC



Miki and Matt Gregory